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PROCEDURE IN INTERSTATE COMMERCE CASES, WITH ILLUSTRATIVE PRECEDENTS AND FORMS. By John B. Daish, A. B., L. L. M. Washington: W. H. Lowdermilk & Company.

Inasmuch as procedure before the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Interstate Commerce Acts involves necessarily controversies which, even when not complicated in themselves, involve almost invariably complicated facts, the present work requires more than a passing survey. Let it be understood that the four hundred and ninety-four pages are laden with information both useful and necessary to the practitioner, and that the author's work is, as pioneer work, in a sense undoubtedly an important contribution to legal literature. It must be observed, however, that as a pioneer work even, it leaves much to be desired. A book of this character is necessarily to a large extent a work of compilation and the originality of the author or compiler must be displayed in his classification and skill in codification. The author cuts his Gordian knot by expressing his thanks to the West Publishing Company for permission to use the American Digest classification scheme, in conformity to which, as he states, the work has been arranged. The effect has been to turn his book on practice into a digest and to give, instead of some logical classification, or some scheme of arrangement that would resolve the subject into some coherence, a list merely of miscellaneous section headings.

The practitioner who examines the work will surely not find the subject rendered entirely free from confusion. The author has besides this an inordinate fondness for quotations—matters which might well be condensed and left to the practitioner for verification if he desires to test them. Again, in the chapter on the interpretation and construction of the Interstate Commerce Act, there have been grouped citations to the number of several hundreds, which are stated to construe sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (cases under sections 12, 13, 14, 15 are massed together), sections 16, 17, 20, 22; a proceeding better calculated to set the practitioner stark, staring mad could not be imagined, particularly if his question should happen to arise under sections 12, 13, 14, 15.

Much of the difficulty incident to the use of any collection of miscellaneous information might have been eliminated had the book been provided with a good and thorough index. But the index, unfortunately, adds little to the information that may be obtained in the table of contents and the method of obtaining information is the simple one of looking through the table of contents or the volume itself.

Again, a list of indictments with the results obtained is given, beginning at page 212 and continuing to page 229. There is no analysis and no arrangement of the information; the facts of the indictments are given and the subject-matter of the indictment. Likewise, on page 217, there is an indictment for shipping a parcel of matting from San Francisco at less than published rate, to which a motion to quash was filed; the case is given as pending. In order to find that particular case it is necessary to read from page 212 to 217 on the pure chance of finding what one desires.

These criticisms are offered with a view to pointing out what seem to be serious defects in a work which, if it is to have any value, must simplify the work of the practitioner. The necessary information is undoubtedly contained in the present volume, which represents apparently great industry, but it surely might have been better directed. It would seem that another scheme of classification should be adopted, as a digest classification is not adapted to the construction of a good work on procedure. It would seem, further, that the information should be put in a much more accessible form, and that, if cases are cited, the nature of their decisions should likewise be stated, and that notes of great length should be subdivided.

CASES ON CRIMINAL LAW. By William E. Mikell, Professor of Law in the University of Pennsylvania. American Case Book Series. St. Paul: West Publishing Company. 1908. Pp. xviii, 610.

Proceeding from the dogma of the general editor of the American Case Book Series, that all methods of studying law, but the inductive method, are doomed, it needs no further introduction to the series than to say that they are intended to furnish the material for making legal inductions.

The preface of the editor offers many propositions that, thrown into almost any group of even mildly controversial jurists, might provoke responses no less heated than those invariably evoked by taking sides for or against some policy of a late and versatile executive.

The book under discussion forms one link in this chain of material for legal inductions. As the selection of cases in works of this character is of the highest importance it will be well to consider first the results of the selection, and second the classification.

It will impress the reader at once that the cases contain in